



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2012
3:30 P.M.
Room 308

HOUSE BILL NO. 2703, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Chairperson Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2703, House Draft 1. The Department of Agriculture supports the intent of this measure, but has concerns, and offers one amendment.

House Draft 1 creates a new chapter in the Hawaii Revised Statutes, requiring the Department of Agriculture to:

- Establish an information base on local production and consumption of food, from which to gauge achievement of a food sustainability standard;
- Identify food commodities to be targeted for assistance so as to increase their local market share;
- Develop incentives to ensure the food sustainability standard is met; and
- Submit annual reports to the Legislature on the status and progress of the Department's efforts.



The reference to the "United States Department of Agriculture" on page one, lines 10 to 11 is incorrect and should be replaced with the proper citation which is the Pacific Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments Program (Pacific RISA).

The responsibilities assigned to the Department of Agriculture are considerable, yet this measure provides no funds to begin and maintain the effort to achieve food self sufficiency.

The food sustainability standard as proposed in this measure requires the collection and compilation of in-shipment data. This is necessary because imports and exports from/to the U.S. mainland are not available from existing federal or state sources. Import and export data from/to other foreign destinations are available from the U.S. Department of Commerce.

The Department of Agriculture previously collected and compiled in-shipment data for fresh fruits and vegetables (FFV). This in-shipment data, used in conjunction with local production data, gave us reliable estimates of the proportion of locally grown FFV sold in the local market. Currently, no in-shipment data is available as all staff members in the program were directly affected by the 2009 reduction-in-force. The Department is working with the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) to develop a collaborative system to gather and analyze relevant data and to present findings to the community at large.

The Department is currently working on developing metrics to determine the current levels of agriculture within the State. We would recommend that the Department be allowed to complete these metrics as a necessary step prior to determining food sustainability standards.

Finally, the Department believes that to achieve and sustain any level of food self-sufficiency as proposed in this measure will involve the activities of the Department of Agriculture combined with the collective efforts of citizens, businesses, and

public/private organizations, and changes to the ways that agriculturally-important resources such as prime agricultural lands and irrigation water sources are valued, allocated, and reclassified.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



February 29, 2012

Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

Opposition to HB 2703, H.D. 1, Relating to Agriculture. (Requires the Department of Agriculture to develop a food sustainability standard to develop a food sustainability standard to promote local food production to help diversify the local economy.)

Wednesday, February 29, 2012, 3:30 p.m., in House Conference Room 308

My name is Dave Arakawa, and I am the Executive Director of the Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF), a private, non-profit research and trade association whose members include major Hawaii landowners, developers and a utility company. One of LURF's missions is to advocate for reasonable, rational and equitable land use planning, legislation and regulations that encourage well-planned economic growth and development, while safeguarding Hawaii's significant natural and cultural resources and public health and safety.

LURF **opposes** HB 2703, H.D. 1 and respectfully urges this Committee to **hold** HB 2703, H.D. 1. Instead, LURF **supports** the passage of either of the bills proposed by the Department of Agriculture (DOA) - HB 2430, H.D. 1, or companion SB 2692, S.D. 1, which would more professionally and comprehensively address issues relating to increasing local food production. LURF would also respectfully request the restoration of DOA positions and funding for the purposes set forth in DOA's bills. We understand that SB 2692, S.D. 1, has passed its final committee in the Senate. However, **if HB 2430, H.D.1 has not been scheduled by this Committee, we would respectfully request that this committee delete the existing text of HB 2703, H.D. 1 and insert the text of DOA's HB 2430, H.D. 1, together with restoration of DOA positions and funding.**

HB 2703, H.D. 1. This bill proposes the creation of a new chapter in the Hawaii Revised Statutes requiring the DOA to develop a food sustainability standard (FSS) to supposedly "promote local food production in order to help diversify the local economy." However, the truth is, this is not a bill to promote local food production. (If it was truly a bill to promote local food production, it would have addressed issues such as the cost of land, water availability, labor costs and availability, transportation costs, invasive species and marketing.)

The original intent of HB 2703 is to stop further reclassification of agricultural lands. A proponent of the bill admitted that its purpose was follows: **"We wanted to set a standard for local food production, and when the State cannot meet that standard, punish landowners – hit 'em with a stick."** The original bill proposed the following:

- **DOA is required to collect in-shipment data (without additional positions or funding);**
- **It doesn't matter what the DOA data proves, DOA is required to establish an arbitrary FSS (volume of food commodities sold in the State that are grown in the state) which shall be "at least double the amount grown in 2013."**
- If the FSS are not met, punish landowners by imposing an unfair and arbitrary moratorium on land use reclassifications of agricultural land.

The H.D. 1 version merely deletes the punishment provisions. The H.D. 1 is still infused with the underlying intent of the original bill; ignores DOA's ongoing research and development of food production metrics; requires DOA accept an arbitrary state food production standard; overlooks the fact that there may be droughts, floods, hurricanes and other natural disasters that affect food production; and is oblivious to the fact that 85% of Hawaii's farm and livestock sales are exported (2008 data).

LURF's Position. Over the years, LURF has consistently and strongly supported agriculture, agriculture development, the IAL law and water for agriculture. LURF also supports food security and food self-sufficiency, however, we must **strongly oppose the current form of HB 2703, H.D. 1**, based on the reasons set forth below. Instead, we **strongly support HB 2430 H.D. 1 and companion SB 2692, S.D.1**, which have been proposed by the DOA in the Governor's package, because they are measures that emphasize cooperation and cohesive industry strategies and planning; a holistic approach from farm to market; and active participation from all of the stakeholders in the agricultural industry, transportation, the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, public and private research entities, and other Federal and State agencies; and they focus on implementing existing and future programs to develop Hawaii's agriculture and food security. The DOA bills are in stark contrast to the original HB 2703, which established arbitrary standards and imposed moratoriums that punish landowners when the standards are not met.

LURF's position includes the following:

- **HB 2703, H.D. 1 should be held, and DOA should retain its authority to establish its own food production and sustainability metrics or standards.** DOA experts in agricultural food production, and DOA should not be forced by this bill, to accept an arbitrary FSS of "at least double the amount grown in 2013." In fact, we understand that DOA is currently working on developing metrics to determine the current levels of agriculture within the State. DOA should be allowed to complete these metrics as a necessary step prior to determining if and when any food sustainability standard or other sustainability standards should be established. These might include, among other things: the cost of land, water availability, labor costs and availability, transportation costs, invasive species, marketing and the "long term economic viability of farms and ranches."
- **Instead of imposing an arbitrary FSS through HB 2703, H.D. 1, the issues of increasing local food production can be better addressed in DOA's HB 2430, H.D. 1 and companion SB 2692, S.D. 1.** LURF would respectfully recommend that one of these DOA bills be adopted, which would authorize the creation of an Agricultural Development and Food Security Program within the DOA, through which the DOA will develop and fund new and existing

programs and facilities to promote the development of agriculture and food security within the State. These Administration bills emphasize cooperation and cohesive industry strategies and planning; a holistic approach from farm to market; and active participation from all of the stakeholders in the agricultural industry. We also respectfully recommend including restoring DOA positions and funding in these bills.

- **Support for DOA collection, compilation, analysis and presentation of in-shipment data.** LURF supports the DOA collection, compilation, analysis and presentation of data and other information relating to imports and exports to/from Mainland U.S. and for import and export to/from other foreign countries. We would respectfully recommend such amendments to HB 2430 H.D. 1 and/or companion SB 2692, S.D.1.
- **Support reinstatement of all DOA positions and all funding which were cut in 2009.** LURF supports the reinstatement of DOA positions and funding for all DOA staff, particularly the restoration of positions and funding for DOA staff necessary to collect, compile and analyze such in-shipment data, to work collaboratively with CTHAR to develop a system to gather and analyze relevant data; to prepare DOA metrics relating to the levels of agriculture in the State; and to present findings to the community. LURF would respectfully recommend such amendments to the State budget bill.

LURF opposes HB 2703, H.D. 1 and supports DOA's bills HB 2430 H.D. 1 and SB 2692, S.D.1, based on the following:

1. **Trust the experts on Food Production, Security and Sustainability.** We understand that DOA drafted HB 2430 and SB 2692; and DOA has experience in agricultural production. We do not know who drafted the original version of HB 2703, or whether they have experience comparable to DOA.
2. **Purposes of measures:**
 - **HB 2703, H.D. 1. does not include support for any agricultural programs; does not address any issues which would increase local food production; and does not involve a collaboration of agricultural stakeholders to increase local food production.** Thus, it is apparent that the main purpose and desired outcome of HB 2703, H.D. 1 is to collect data to create a FSS, then ignore DOA's data and establish an arbitrary FSS, so that perhaps, if the FSS are not met, opponents of land use classifications can use such information, or in the future, lobby for legislation imposing sanctions if the FSS are not met.
 - **The purpose of DOA's HB 2430 H.D. 1 and SB 2692, S.D.1 is to create and implement a very broad agricultural development and food security program.** The desired outcomes of the DOA bills are to grow the "farm to market" concept and increase interrelationships between private and public sectors to develop and improve agriculture in the state.

3. Differing strategies to achieve food security and sustainability:

- **HB 2703, H.D. 1 ignores the DOA's metrics research and data collected regarding food production, and just sets an arbitrary FSS of "at least double the amount grown in 2013."** HB 2703, H.D. 1. is premised on the unreasonable belief that all you need to do to increase agricultural production – is to set an arbitrary standard.
- **DOA's HB 2430 H.D. 1 and SB 2692, S.D.1 will implement a multi-faceted strategy to increase local food production.** DOA understands successful and viable agriculture is very complex and involves many issues (agricultural infrastructure, labor, biosecurity, food safety, market development, research and development, agricultural lands, water and water treatment, pest management, food safety, etc.)

4. Differing Approaches:

- **HB 2703, H.D. 1 is exclusionary; usurps DOA's authority; ignores DOA's expertise relating to food production; and the arbitrary FSS will have a divisive impact.** The drafting of the original HB 2703 did not include the participation of the DOA, Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, large agricultural landowners, or other agricultural stakeholders. This collaborative effort is crucial, especially because of the possibility that those same landowners could possibly face penalties or sanctions if the FSS is not met. It disregards DOA's ongoing work on food production metrics, requires DOT to collect data, just so that it can be ignored, and forces DOA to accept an arbitrary FSS of "at least double the amount grown in 2013." Any failure to meet this arbitrary FSS will result in blame, finger-pointing, and perhaps the proponent's original intent – the unreasonable and unjustified punishment of landowners.
- **DOA's HB 2430 H.D. 1 and SB 2692, S.D.1 call for collaboration and understands that in Hawaii, all stakeholders must work together for the success of agriculture.** DOA understands that to increase food production and move towards achieving food security, all stakeholders must work together to make agriculture viable and successful, similar to the collaborative efforts which led to the passage of the IAL law.

Based on the above, LURF **opposes HB 2703, H.D. 1**, and respectfully requests that this bill **be held** in this Committee. LURF however, **strongly supports HB 2430 H.D. 1 and SB 2692, S.D.1**, and respectfully urges that this Committee favorably consider and pass DOA's HB 2430, H.D. 1, or, if **HB 2430, H.D.1 has not been scheduled by this Committee**, we would respectfully request that this Committee delete the existing text of HB 2703, H.D. 1 and insert the text of DOA's HB 2430, H.D. 1, together with restoration of DOA positions and funding.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify regarding this measure.



Hawaii Farm Bureau
F E D E R A T I O N

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February 29, 2012

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON HB 2703, HD1
RELATING TO FOOD SELF SUFFICIENCY

Room 308
3:30 PM

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Chief Operating Officer and Government Affairs Liaison for the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFBF). Organized since 1948, the HFBF is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interest of our diverse agricultural community.

HFBF provides the following comments to HB 2703, HD1, requiring the Department of Agriculture to develop food sustainability standards.

We do agree with the need for data. The Hawaii Agricultural Statistics Service has been the collector and repository of agricultural data and annually publishes the Hawaii Agricultural Statistics. Much of the data requested in this measure is already available. However, due to cutbacks, their ability to collect and analyze data has been severely curtailed. What is needed is a restoration of capacity for the Department to collect data ...not just food but all agricultural data. We understand some of the positions are being restored, however, County level data previously available may no longer be possible. This information is important as it guides access to funds and other critical matters for agriculture.

I can be reached at (808) 848-2074 if you have any questions. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Sierra Club

Hawai'i Chapter

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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

February 29, 2012, 3:30 P.M.
(Testimony is 2 pages long)

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2703 (HD1)

Aloha Chair Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

The Sierra Club, Hawaii Chapter, with 10,000 dues paying members and supporters statewide, strongly **supports** HB 2703 (HD1). This measure creates a vision of food self-sufficiency and sets metrics to ensure compliance over time. We suggest, however, that it return to the language contained in the original version inasmuch as connects compliance and land use planning within the State.

The Hawaii State Constitution, article XI, section, is explicit about the need to “conserve and protect agricultural lands, promote diversified agriculture, increase self-sufficiency,” and the obligation to “assure the availability of agricultural suitable lands.” Despite this rather clear directive, Hawai'i has moved in the wrong direction. We import approximately ninety per cent of our food. Currently, Hawaii has a fresh supply of produce for no more than ten days. Ninety per cent of the beef, sixty-seven per cent of fresh vegetables, sixty-five per cent of fresh fruits, and seventy per cent of all milk consumed in the state are imported.

Our current strategy for increasing diversified agriculture and promoting self-sufficiency plainly isn't working. The definition of stupidity is doing the same thing over again and expecting different results. Plainly Hawai'i needs to look at new solutions.

HB 2703 sets a new vision. It creates a specific targets and requires annual reporting. A similar concept helped pump prime Hawai'i's clean energy industry. Hawai'i's Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Portfolio Standards were a key part in starting the clean energy movement. Tangible goals with metrics that define success effectively brought previously bickering parties together to solve Hawai'i's dangerous dependence on foreign oil.

Just fifty years ago half our food was produced locally. We can aspire a return to that level of self-sufficiency through self-enforcing standards that encourage collaboration between landowners, farmers, and the State.

Relying on DOA estimates, this concept could generate a billion dollars in new sales for our businesses, stimulate \$300 million in new household earnings, create more than 14,000 new jobs with living wages, and pump \$39 million in new tax revenues into our state coffers.

Enforceability of the Food Sustainability Standards is necessary (as in the original version of this measure). For example, Hawai'i adopted a goal of reducing its waste production by 50% by the year 2000 (a goal that has been essentially ignored). Without enforcement, stakeholders will not have a reason to treat the standards with the level of seriousness necessary to ensure compliance. Enforcement, particularly tied to one of the problems hamstringing food production, is a means to bring everyone to the table for positive solutions.

HB 2703 is an opportunity to create a self-sustaining vision of Hawai'i's future. We hope this Committee will allow it to proceed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



To: House Finance Committee

From: Ashley Lukens, Board Member

My name is Ashley Lukens and I am testifying in support of HB2703 on behalf of the Hawaii Food Policy Council. I reside in Representative Hashem's district. I own a small business in Representative Choy's district. I am also PhD candidate and instructor in the Department of Political Science at UH Manoa. My research focuses on food policies at the state and municipal level. Based on my research of the policies put forward by the more than 150 food policy councils across the US, HB2703 stands out as a unique and effective policy model for growing local food systems and local economies.

As a small business owner, I feel that creating jobs, rebuilding and diversifying local businesses, and stopping the hemorrhaging of billions of dollars from our economy to other markets is the most important thing we can do for the State of Hawai'i. By some measures as much as \$3 billion is sent out of state every year to pay for food imports and the 2008 Hawai'i Department of Agriculture White Paper on Food Self-Sufficiency stated that replacing just 10% of food imports with local produce would generate over 2,300 new jobs.

HB2703 will create jobs, has the potential to keep hundreds of millions of dollars circulating in our local economy, and is one of the most important steps we can take to rebuild and grow our local agriculture industry. To achieve these goals, this bill establishes food sustainability as a statewide priority and creates a framework for enabling the growth of agricultural production focused on livestock and crops for local consumption in Hawai'i.

According to the US Department of Agriculture, only 8% of the food purchased in Hawai'i is produced in-state. That situation leaves us dangerously vulnerable to supply disruptions and global economic volatility. It is the responsibility of the state to ensure that Hawaii can grow a sufficient amount of food, particularly in the event of national disaster or an increase in transportation and thus imported food costs.

Lets grow our economy and the state's tax revenue by supporting local farms and local businesses!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Signed:

Ashley Lukens

Organization: Hawaii Food Policy Council (HFPC)

Date: 2/28/12

Keoni Kealoha Mahelona
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Testimony for HB2703

February 29, 2012

Aloha Chair Oshiro and members of the committee,

Mahalo nui for scheduling HB2703 for a hearing and showing your support for Hawai'i's food system. Food self-sufficiency is a no-brainer, and I'm shocked that all of us have allowed our Islands and our People to be in this situation with regard to food security.

Hawai'i once produced 100% of its food for a population estimated to be as high as 800,000. We have brought that down to 10% for a population of only 1.3 million. Even considering our tastes for imported processed foods, imported produce that can't grow in Hawai'i, and contemporary foods that require more land per output (e.g. cattle versus kalo), Hawai'i should still be capable of producing 50% of its own food.

I would like to ask that we challenge ourselves further and aim to triple (or even quadruple) Hawai'i's food production. Perhaps this goal may not be achievable in 10 years time, but it is a goal for which we should strive.

Finally, I want to remind us all that we need to be cautious about the environmental impacts of agriculture. Our cousins in New Zealand have an economy largely based on agriculture, and as a result they have seen the destruction of their native forests and a continual decline in water quality. We need to be environmentally 'akamai with our agricultural strategy so that we do not pollute our land, rivers, and oceans.

Thank you for taking the time to hear my mana'o. Unfortunately I cannot attend the hearing as I am currently in Aotearoa.

Mahalo,

 MAHELONA



Olinda Farms

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Olinda Farms adamantly supports HB2703. The dependence on imported food sources poses a significant threat to the people of Hawaii in the event of an emergency as well as leaves us vulnerable to a fluctuating market. Not only will more jobs be created through the support of small farms, the quality of produce will be increased. Locally grown produce is delivered to consumers' fresh, which means more nutrients and more shelf life. It seems strange to many that a place blessed with a year round growing season would import 92% of its food! As a small farmer I see an increasing interest for locally grown produce. To avoid a possible food shortage it is in the best interest of the state to support our small farmers. Creating a food sustainability standard is the first step in creating a sustainable food future.

Mahalo,
Ashley Fowler

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Anthony Aalto
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To : House Finance Committee
Hearing Date : February 29th 2012
Subject : Testimony in Strong Support of HB2703

Aloha Chair Oshiro and members of the committee

My name is Anthony Aalto. I am a resident of Honolulu and I thank you for this opportunity to testify.

I have witnessed the enormous workload faced by this committee in the last few days and it makes me especially grateful that you have scheduled time to hear this bill. Thank you!

I believe HB2703 has the potential to do for agriculture what the Clean Energy Initiative did for the energy sector. By setting a statewide target of 70% clean energy by 2030, the CEI kick-started legislative, regulatory and private sector initiatives which have sparked a booming alternative energy sector and created hundreds, if not thousands of new jobs. In the same way, setting a statutory statewide target of doubling food production by 2020 could unleash a food farming revolution and huge economic benefits.

Indeed a December 2008 White Paper by the Hawai'i state Department of Agriculture notes that replacing just 10% of the food that we import with locally grown produce would give a \$313 million jolt to the local economy, create more than 2,300 jobs and raise \$6 million in state tax revenues.

Moreover, a food farming revolution is desperately needed. As you are doubtless aware, the latest figures from the US Department of Agriculture indicate that Hawai'i grows just 8% to 10% of all the food that we consume. This leaves us dangerously vulnerable to supply disruptions.

According to the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) at the University of Hawaii, in the last 50 years we have paved more than 53% of our prime A and B farm lands. Yet at this very moment the Land Use Commission is considering approving two vast suburban developments that would plant 16,750 homes on more than 2,300 of the 4,500 acres on O'ahu currently used to grow food.

Although Governor Abercrombie's administration has promised to make greater food production a top priority, in reality nothing much has happened thus far. It is time for the Legislature to lead the way.

The target of doubling food production by 2020 was arrived at after consultations with experts at CTAHR; with the Hawai'i Farmers Union United, which has more than 500 members; with the owner of our largest organic farm; with officials at our largest organic food retailer, with members of the Hawai'i Food Policy Council, and with experts at the Kokua Hawai'i Foundation which has been so instrumental in establishing a successful farm to school program. They all agree that doubling our food production by 2020 is an ambitious, but achievable goal.

Please support this bill.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

FEB 29, 2012, 3:30 pm
(Testimony is 1 page long)

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT HB 2703

Aloha Chair Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

Mahalo for giving HB 2703 a hearing and showing your support for Hawaii's food security and future economic well being.

Living in a beautiful island State means we must be as self-sufficient as possible. It is not only important for preserving our natural land and resources, but because relying on expensive imports compromises our current and future economic security. Growing food locally needs to be a statewide priority. Its importance and relevance spans everything from Hawaiian culture to mitigating the impacts of climate change.

Under HB 2703, if we fail to double the amount of food we grow by 2020, an automatic but temporary moratorium would block all reclassification of farmland from agriculture to urban until we do meet the standard. Importantly, this would encourage large landowners to put some of their holdings into food production in perpetuity. If the state is committed to doubling the amount of food it produces by 2020, it will create an environment in which it will be easier to address the many other issues that farmers face – from leases and financing, to processing and marketing.

I respectfully ask that you advance this measure so that we may all look forward to healthier, locally grown foods on our plates, fresh from our island farmers. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Joy Leilei Shih

Chair Finance Committee, Marcus Oshiro,

I support HB2703. I am extremely concerned about food security, land use, and food quality in Hawai'i. It is critical that we promote local, organically grown fruits and vegetables to provide jobs, a healthy environment and nutritious, locally grown food for our community.

Sincerely,
Denise Snyder
Honolulu, Hawai'i
2/29/12

Justine Espiritu

1611 ua Drive Honolulu HI

96816

Chair Oshiro and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for scheduling HB2703 for a hearing and showing your support for Hawaii's food system. I am a home gardener and novice chef and I support this bill because it promises to increase the production and availability of fresh, local produce. I am thankful that this bill was written and that the members of this committee have the opportunity to show that Hawaii prioritizes food security. I appreciate you all taking the time to hear the voices of those of us in the community that support this meaningful and achievable bill!

Thank you,

Justine Espiritu

Support for HB 2703

I want to thank you for scheduling HB2703 for a hearing and showing your support for Hawaii's food system. I am a school counselor and parent, and I am very concerned about the availability of locally grown food, which is so fresh and healthy for communities and my family. The elementary school I work at participates in a fresh fruit and vegetable snack program, and most of the produce is locally grown. We are trying to introduce students to the value and delicious qualities of locally grown foods, which is extremely important for health and wellness in their lives. We need to guarantee that they will have an ample supply of local produce as they mature.

We need to ensure that our state can be more self-sufficient in food supply by encouraging local produce production. As a state in such an isolated location, the importance of being able to supply food for residents can't be understated.

And, the more we can produce locally will benefit our health and economy.

Hawai'i Island has many acres of former sugar cane land that could be used for farming, and ideally, land could be set aside on each island. Let's work to increase sustainability by raising food production to meet statewide needs.

Your positive role in growing our local food system is very much appreciated.

Mahalo for your time,

Christine Ahia

Wynn timer Hee

I am a private citizen and self-appointed lobbyist for people who are too busy: too busy working, too busy commuting, too busy raising children, or just too busy to be informed about the vital issues that you, our law makers, are deciding.

I strongly support HB2703 HD1. I strongly support believe we need to increase our local food production in our state and especially on Oahu where most of our population resides.

I want to eat fruits and vegetables grown on our island under our Hawaiian sun. I don't want our agricultural products to be primarily for export. I don't want our locally grown food to be mainly for fancy Pacific-Rim cuisine restaurants. I used to love to go to our Mililani farmers' market, and I always bought the beautiful hydroponic lettuce. Then the lettuce people stopped coming. I was told they didn't have enough to sell at the farmers' market after they supplied their restaurant customers. So sad for me.

This bill also states that food sustainability requires long-term land use planning and resource allocation planning. I suppose "resource allocation" refers to water, and common sense tells us we must plan to keep prime agricultural land for agriculture. Housing can easily go up in the air 40 or 50 stories, but not agriculture.

In today's newspaper (Feb. 27, 2012), there was an article about Ho Farms, which was established in 1991 and currently rents 40 acres in Kahuku. They have just signed a long-term lease of 18 acres from D.R. Horton at Ho'opili. It was shocking to learn that according to Neil Ho, none of their current farmland has a lease longer than five years, and some of their land is on a year-to-year lease!

How can farmers grow affordable food for us when they have such a hard time to get affordable land? We need you, our law makers, to pass this bill so we can start planning for food sustainability now!

Yours truly,
Wynn timer Hee
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Mililani, HI 96789-4420
ph. 782-0745

Aloha Chair Oshiro and members of the committee,

I want to thank you for scheduling HB2703 for a hearing and showing your support for Hawaii's food system. My wife and I prefer to purchase locally grown organic produce and increasing the food grown locally would drive down prices. It would also increase employment. According to a UH report and the state Department of Agriculture, replacing just 10% of our food imports with locally grown produce would give a nearly \$200 million jolt to our economy, create more than 2,300 jobs and raise more than \$6 million in state tax revenues. This is far greater job creation than from the chemical giants like Monsanto and Dow and could attract more entrepreneurs to the state.

Conceivably there could be an opportunity to export high quality organic produce to the mainland. We could sell to Whole Foods, other premium grocers, high hotel chains... on the west coast and perhaps further inland or around the Pacific Rim.

With three growing seasons, the best weather in the world and great soil we could attract enthusiastic farmers that could create a miracle in food production and cash flow for the state.

In case of problems with food production on the mainland due to earthquakes, global warming, tsunamis... we could help maintain our population with locally grown food.

You are local food heroes Your positive role in growing our local food system is very much appreciated. Thank you so much.

Best wishes,

Cliff and Mary DeVries

HB2703
Finance committee
Hearing 2/29/12 at 3:30pm

Aloha, Chair Oshiro and committee members,

Mahalo nui for scheduling a hearing of HB2703 and taking the time to hear why people care about our food system. We all are involved in our food system, we are all eaters, so this bill concerns us all and we should all have a voice in how our food system operates. The current statistics on Hawai'i's food self-sufficiency frighten me, and I know this bill is just one step in the long journey towards achieving the final goal of food self-sufficiency in Hawai'i. Hawai'i currently grows only 10% of what we consume, with all of the other food we consume being shipped in. Hawai'i's agriculture lands are being paved over at a very high rate, leaving farmers without land to grow our precious food. I urge everyone to think not about profit margins and big business but to think about the generations to come and the environment when they make a decision regarding land and food. Without the land to grow food we may not have the land to call home, sustainable agriculture has to be a priority if we want to have a place for our children, and children's children, to call home. I humbly ask that you support HB2703.

Mahalo nui,
Cherub Silverstein

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 3:29 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: djrx.cares@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 308
Testifier position:
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Alex Oshiro
Organization: Individual
E-mail: djrx.cares@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/28/2012

Comments:
it is important that we create a sustainable future for ourselves that we are able to feed our island population locally.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 4:39 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: naia96708@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Nadine [Nai`a] Newlight
Organization: Individual
E-mail: naia96708@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/28/2012

Comments:

In the same way that the Clean Energy Initiative used statutory targets to kick start Hawaii's booming alternative energy sector, setting a target of doubling food production will kick-start an agricultural boom.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 5:35 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: bbbtutu@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Bonnie Bonse
Organization: Individual
E-mail: bbbtutu@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/28/2012

Comments:

Dear Chair Oshiro and Finance Committee Members: Thank you for scheduling HB 2703 for a hearing. I am a supporter of the local food and farms, as well as the farm-to-school movement. Hawaii's small farmers are capable of supplying food needed to sustain the people of these islands if given the opportunities. Importing such a large percentage of our food makes no sense for our local economy, health and well-being. I hope you will support this bill to double food production in Hawaii by 2020, if not sooner. Thank you.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 7:38 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: jbautista619@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jerome Bautista
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jbautista619@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/28/2012

Comments:

Aloha Chair Oshiro and members of the committee. I want to thank you for scheduling HB2703 for a hearing and showing your support for Hawaii's food system. This is a great step towards Oahu food sustainability. I am a huge follower of locally-produced, non-GMO foods and this bill would mean so much not only for our lands, but for our ohana that need to eat healthy foods. This bill will help support my work in the community by increasing the amount of food in our market place that is locally grown. Your positive role in growing our local food system is very much appreciated. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 7:21 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: nlowen@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Nicole Lowen
Organization: Individual
E-mail: nlowen@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/28/2012

Comments:
Chair Oshiro and members of the Committee:

Please move this bill forward. Encouraging local production of food will keep dollars in the local economy, save farmland from sprawling development and will be a step towards a safer, healthier, more sustainable food system.

Thank You,

Nicole Lowen
nlowen@gmail.com
Palolo

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 5:53 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: reed_joyce@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Joyce Reed
Organization: Individual
E-mail: reed_joyce@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/28/2012

Comments:

Thank you for addressing this very important, vital issue . . . we live in a place where food can be grown 12 months of the year . . . it is unconscionable that we do not grow enough to feed our own island people . . . the land and capacity and need exists. PLEASE support and pass this bill!

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 4:53 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: pbdocberry@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Paul Berry
Organization: Individual
E-mail: pbdocberry@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/28/2012

Comments:

Rep. Oshiro,

I'm hoping that we can remember you as the legislator who helped us start toward food self-sufficiency, a positive legacy. According to a UH report and the state Department of Agriculture, replacing just 10% of our food imports with locally grown produce would give a nearly \$200 million jolt to our economy, create more than 2,300 jobs and raise more than \$6 million in state tax revenues.

Thanks for your work on our behalf.

Paul Berry

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 6:23 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: eco@maui.net
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: CHRISTOPHER BAZ
Organization: Individual
E-mail: eco@maui.net
Submitted on: 2/28/2012

Comments:

The USDA determined that in Hawai'i we only grow 8% to 10% of everything we eat. As the most remote major inhabited place on earth, that leaves us extraordinarily vulnerable to supply disruptions. We can increase jobs and health and reduce our vulnerability in disasters.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 2:12 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: pualeafarm@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Eloise Engman
Organization: Individual
E-mail: pualeafarm@hawaiiantel.net
Submitted on: 2/28/2012

Comments:

Hawaii is approximately 90% dependent on imported food, which is a dangerous position for our state to be in. Requiring Hawaii to double food production by 2020 would be an important step in the direction of food security for everyone living in Hawaii.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2012 5:59 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: kci@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kim ISaak
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kci@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/27/2012

Comments:

Aloha All, Thanks you so much for hearing this important bill; we must dialogue as much as possible on this issue of food sustainability so that we can better understand a way to move forward. Hearing this bill allows just that! Mahalo Nui Loa, Kim

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 7:25 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: dubielfdesign@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Rexann Dubiel
Organization: Individual
E-mail: dubielfdesign@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/28/2012

Comments:

Dear Rep. Oshiro,

Please pass this bill forward at your hearing.

We need to be self sufficient. We need food grown locally, for ourselves and for the good of the planet. Let's lessen our footprint and save energy.

That's what I'm teaching my students---grow a garden, grow your own food, buy local. It's good for everyone and the economy.

Aloha,

Rex Dubiel

Grade 3 Teacher

Sunset Beach Elementary

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
ent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 9:56 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: stover@ulukanu.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Michal Stover
Organization: Individual
E-mail: stover@ulukanu.com
Submitted on: 2/28/2012

Comments:

According to a UH report and the State Department of Agriculture, replacing just 10% of our food imports with locally grown produce would give a nearly \$200 million boost to our economy, create more than 2,300 jobs and raise more than \$6 million in State tax revenues.

The US Department of Agriculture recently determined that in Hawai'i we only grow 8% to 10% of everything we eat. As the most remote major inhabited place on earth, that leaves us extraordinarily vulnerable to supply disruptions.

Since statehood we've paved 53% of our prime farmlands and at this moment the Land Use Commission is considering approving projects that would put 16,750 homes on more than 2,300 of the 4,500 acres currently used to grow food on O'ahu.

In the same way that the Clean Energy Initiative used statutory targets to kick start Hawaii's booming alternative energy sector, setting a target of doubling food production would kick-start an agricultural boom.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 8:12 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: 8alana8@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Alana Bryant
Organization: Individual
E-mail: 8alana8@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/28/2012

Comments:

Aloha Chair Oshiro and members of the committee. I want say mahalo for scheduling HB 2703 for a hearing and showing your support our delicate food system here in Hawaii. I am a home gardener and a huge supporter of the farm-to-school movement. I drive to farmers markets every weekend, and I wish that everyone on the island had the opportunity to eat local food, because it is just so good. It feels real and nourishing. This bill will help support my work in the community by increasing the amount of food in our market place that is locally grown. The children of Hawaii should grow up eating the food from the islands, not food that was grown 4000 miles away. Your positive role in growing our local food system is very much appreciated. Mahalo nui for everything that you do.

Alana Bryant

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2012 3:22 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: me@shirleythompson.net
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Shirley Thompson
Organization: Individual
E-mail: me@shirleythompson.net
Submitted on: 2/27/2012

Comments:
Dear Finance Committee:

Mahalo for scheduling HB2703 for a hearing and for showing your support for Hawaii's food system. I am a small business owner who cares passionately about supporting small local businesses by buying local goods and services whenever possible. This bill will help small local businesses in so many ways. The dollars I spend buying locally grown food overwhelmingly stay in Hawaii, where they go to support our farmers, local food artisans and restaurants with much needed income, rather than paying money to large corporations where the money goes straight out of state. This bill also provides me and my family with more affordable and sustainable locally grown food by increasing the amount of food in the market that is locally grown. Your positive role in growing our local food system is very much appreciated. Thank you so much.

Shirley Thompson
619 Lawelawe Street
Honolulu, HI 96821

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
ent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 8:01 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: sandrascar@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Sandraq Scarr
Organization: Individual
E-mail: sandrascar@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/28/2012

Comments:
Aloha Chair Oshiro and members of the committee.

I want to thank you for scheduling HB2703 for a hearing and showing your support for Hawaii's food system. It is imperative that Hawaii grow more of our own food. we are an isolated state. We need to become, and we CAN become, more food-sufficient. With the cost of transportation rising with each year, and the threat of global disruption of food chains, we need to act now to prepare for greater food sufficiency.

You are local food heroes! I am a home gardener and a huge supporter of the farm-to-school movement. At present I am enrolled in the UH-CTAHR Master Gardener course, to learn more about how to grow local foods for home consumption and to sell at local farmers markets. This bill will help support my work in the community by increasing the amount of food in our market place that is locally grown.

Your positive role in growing our local food system is very much appreciated. Thank you for hearing this bill and for passing it on for approval by the House and Senate.

Aloha,
Sandra Scarr

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
ent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 8:03 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: leinaur001@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Roberts Leianu
Organization: Individual
E-mail: leinaur001@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/28/2012

Comments:
Think long term self sufficiency. Do the right thing. Mahalo

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
ent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 6:18 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: janeyamashiro2020@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jane Yamashiro
Organization: Ola Hawaii 2020
E-mail: janeyamashiro2020@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/28/2012

Comments:

Please support HB2703. It is imperative that this state becomes food self-sufficient. Providing incentives and support for agricultural enterprises would be a big step in increasing food production. Let's get off the high import rate!

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2012 11:59 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: tia.pearson@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: tia pearson
Organization: Individual
E-mail: tia.pearson@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/27/2012

Comments:

Aloha Chair Oshiro. I am one of your constituents and I want to thank you for scheduling HB2703 for a hearing and showing your support for Hawaii's food system. I am a grandmother of 2 kids who will attend Hawaii's public schools. This bill will support my family by getting healthier, locally grown food on to my kids plates at school - improving their long term health and wellness.

The US Department of Agriculture recently determined that in Hawai'i we only grow 8% to 10% of everything we eat. That makes our food for our families very expensive. Also, as the most remote major inhabited place on earth that leaves us extraordinarily vulnerable to supply disruptions. Yet since statehood we've paved-over 53% of our prime farm lands and at this moment the state Land Use Commission is considering approving projects that would put 16,750 homes on more than 2,300 of the 4,500 acres currently used to grow food on O'ahu. Your positive role in growing our local food system is very much appreciated.

Thank you so much.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 29, 2012 1:39 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: jorgegorriti@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jorge Gorriti
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jorgegorriti@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/29/2012

Comments:

Jorge Gorriti
47-401 Waihee Pl.
Kaneohe, HI 96744
(808) 220-6534
jorgegorriti@hotmail.com
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
FEB 29, 2012, 3:30pm
(Testimony is 1 page long)
TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 2703
Aloha Chair Oshiro and Members of the Committee:
Mahalo for giving HB 2703 a hearing and showing your support for Hawaii's food security and future economic well-being.

As a resident of one of the most beautiful and remote islands in the world, I feel like our future economic independence relies heavily on properly utilizing its natural resources.

In my humble opinion, I see further urbanization of agricultural land as a leap in the wrong direction and the negative implications are many: From the lost of farmable land and the displacement of farmers, to the disruption of the food supply and the dependance on mainland produce that it will imply.

I respectfully ask that you advance this measure so that we may all look forward to a healthier, locally grown food on our plates, fresh from our island farmers. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.
Sincerely,
Jorge Gorriti.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 29, 2012 11:32 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: stapu96707@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Sonia Tapu
Organization: Individual
E-mail: stapu96707@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/29/2012

Comments:

Sustainable food is grown, not manufactured. Food is one of our most basic needs. Local farming is our source. In today's global food crisis, questions of food safety, a shrinking population of small family farms, concerns with the health impacts of pesticides, the cost of organic vs. processed foods, genetically engineered produce, biofuels, labeling, especially with GMO on rise. Me, as a consumer, often prefer locally grown produce, I am confused if the produce is labeled incorrectly or not at all. As a shopper, I am looking for local products, but am often deceived, by misleading signage. Locally grown crops need to be marked clearly and correctly. You have to be careful, just because produce is in an area of the store defined as 'local' it is not always locally grown. If your favorite store doesn't even have a 'local' section, you need to ask them to create one. Okay, example, when you reach for a green bell pepper, know that peppers are brought in from at least five countries. Bins of peppers may contain some local peppers but may also contain peppers from a variety of other places. The lack of proper labeling by growers or correct signage from sellers presents a dilemma for us consumers. "Hawaii Grown" stickers could really help. Farming enhances environmental quality improving our natural resource(s) and society as a whole, for sustainability in case(s) of emergency ~ example, bringing foreign produce to Hawaii, especially in misleading boxes, can harm consumers, growers and the overall health of the community. With lower standards and lax government regulations in some countries, foreign produce may have excessive pesticide residues and other dangerous chemicals present. With severe cuts in Hawaii's agricultural inspectors, checking for harmful chemicals is less thorough and many new insects and diseases sneak in as well. Beyond the potential dangers to consumers, as well as our crops, importing products that are also grown here forces Hawaiian farmers to constantly compete with low overseas prices for major crops like ginger, taro, bananas and avocados, as well as other fruits, vegetables and herbs. The companies that import and distribute inferior overseas products at prices below what local farmers can afford to charge are not doing any of us a favor. Agriculture is alive in the hearts, minds, and hands of Hawai'i's youth who are experiencing nature through school gardens and other outdoor, applied learning opportunities, they are our future and we must, must, provide a sustainable eco-environment for our keiki o ka aina. They are the future farmers and pono stewards of our lands, waters, and communities. REMEMBER 9-11 <http://ef123.org/ti-leaf/food-energy-water/> In this time of a global terrorism threat in the wake of 9/11 and seeing the urgent need, on September 15, 2001 Earth Foundation ("EF") began an ongoing, "Sustainability in Agriculture, Energy and Water" education project. The purpose is to help the State of Hawaii and Maui be more aware of the dangers of not producing enough of their own food and alternative energy, and the need to protect their aquifers. Why is "Sustainability" important? Using MAUI as an example of each of the Hawaiian Islands: If ships and airplanes stopped delivering food and fuel to Maui, the island could have difficulties. In these fragile times, EF was advised in late 2001 that combined in

Maui's grocery stores & warehouses "Maui has a 3 to 5 day supply of meats, perishables, and vegetables." But we were advised that Maui would also have access to another large supply of food available on Oahu. Our informed source said he believed there is probably in the range of 2 weeks to 30 days supply of all foods, dry goods, and other items available to or on Maui including especially a large supply of potentially available canned, frozen foods, and dry goods that are primarily located in Oahu and could be transported to Maui. The other smaller Hawaiian Islands also have a short food & energy supply. The Hawaiian Islands are just little green dots all alone far away from everything in the middle of the big blue Pacific. mahalo. Sonia Tapu, i am an indigenous native hawaiian and a citizen of this State.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 29, 2012 12:47 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: jennyjonesiam@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jennifer A. Jones
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jennyjonesiam@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/29/2012

Comments:

Jennifer A. Jones
144 Forest Ridge Way
Honolulu, HI 96822
(808) 781-5258
jennyjonesiam@gmail.com
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
FEB 29, 2012, 3:30 pm
(Testimony is 1 page long)
TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT HB 2703
Aloha Chair Oshiro and Members of the Committee:
Mahalo for giving HB 2703 a hearing and showing your support for Hawaii's food security and future economic well-being.

It is the responsibility of all Hawaii residents to not only maintain our community but to sustain and even more so, to enrich it. We are an island community that should be self sufficient and has clearly been for generations prior.

In the history of this land it is a relatively current phenomenon that we find to be our greatest dilemma. We cannot feed ourselves without relying on far away sources. What was once a thriving, self sufficient island community is now grossly dependent on imports. Our farm land is being bought out from under us. Our environment is in constant compromise. Our economy thrives solely on tourism.

We have the means to create an agricultural epicenter that could redefine Hawaii as we currently know it. We can farm enough produce to feed our state if we support our farmers. We could create jobs and local economic success. Buy local is more than a bumper sticker. It's what we need to embrace as a community for right now and for our future generations.

Taking it even a step further we could create a sustainable farming format that could be adopted by other states, nations, countries.

Let's lead by example and with Aloha.

MALAMA THE AINA!
&
Mahalo for the opportunity to

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 11:27 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: mbarham1975@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: The Rev. Michael P. Barham
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mbarham1975@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/28/2012

Comments:
Chairman Oshiro, and members of the House Finance Committee:

Thank you for your work and for scheduling a hearing on HB2703. I am an Episcopal priest serving in Honolulu, and support the passage of legislation that calls for establishing protocols to promote sustainable local food market.

I am struck by the fact of the Hawaii state motto, which hangs upon the state house, and in which the connection between righteousness and the land are explicit. We need to promote this essential connection to the land, and our care of it, not only for our sake, but for the heritage of the generations to follow us for whom we are stewards of these islands. This bill, in addition to many other benefits for the economy and our health, can help us dignify the motto and values of this state.

Mahalo nui loa,
Michael Barham+

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
ent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 9:45 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: Info@schha.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Annie Au Hoon, Parent
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Info@schha.com
Submitted on: 2/28/2012

Comments:

"Aloha Chair Oshiro and members of the committee. I want to thank you for scheduling HB2703 for a hearing and showing your support for Hawaii's food system. I am a mother of 3 kids who all attend Hawaii's public schools (Mc Kinley and Halau Ku Mana, NCPCS. This bill will support my family by getting healthier, locally grown food on to my kids plates at school - improving their long term health and wellness. Your positive role in growing our local food system is very much appreciated. Thank you so much."

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
ent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 10:13 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: bobglorptknck@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Tim
Organization: Individual
E-mail: bobglorptknck@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/28/2012

Comments:

Aloha Chair Oshiro and members of the committee. I want to thank you for scheduling HB2703 for a hearing and showing your support for Hawaii's food system.

We live in a place that affords us the opportunity to grow our own food and become substantially more sustainable! I really hope we continue to work towards sustainability and away from the dependence of importation. We need governmental support to work towards greater local food production!

Our positive role in growing our local food system is very much appreciated. Thank you so much.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
ent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 9:37 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: Info@schha.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Annie Au Hoon, Parent
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Info@schha.com
Submitted on: 2/28/2012

Comments:

"Aloha Chair Oshiro and members of the committee. I want to thank you for scheduling HB2703 for a hearing and showing your support for Hawaii's food system. I am a mother of 3 kids who all attend Hawaii's public schools (Mc Kinley and Halau Ku Mana, NCPCS. This bill will support my family by getting healthier, locally grown food on to my kids plates at school - improving their long term health and wellness. Your positive role in growing our local food system is very much appreciated. Thank you so much."

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
ent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 9:19 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: SHAUNAGHR@AOL.COM
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: SHAUNAGH ROBBINS
Organization: OLA HAWAII 2020
E-mail: SHAUNAGHR@AOL.COM
Submitted on: 2/28/2012

Comments:

If we are the most isolated island chain, we need to be more self sufficient in terms of food production. The legislature must provide the incentive to grow more food here in the island. If we are the pico of the world, then we need to preserve our land for agriculture. We may end up being the best place in the world to grow crops, given that we have the very best soil in the world and four growing seasons per year. Either way, we need to be growing more edible crops here in Hawaii and should mandate this increase by passing this bill HB 2703. Thank you.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 29, 2012 2:30 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: mswentpriz@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: mariah white
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mswentpriz@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/29/2012

Comments:

We be supporting and building our AGRICULTURE sector (pref; organic- NONE GMO) here in Hawaii. We have the best lands and soil. It will provide work, help small business thrive and provide healthy food for residents, as well as , put us in a better position to be self sufficient should gas/shipping prices rise (which they will), server weather inhibit incoming' food' / goods shipments and other other possible disasters, that can make island residents vulnerable. We can not continue to build and cement over our beautiful islands- development and tourism should not be our top industries. We should be working to becoming more green, building a sustainable society and a living example to the rest of the world- not another 'disney world' .

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 9:02 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: jasmine.hawaii@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Cheryl (Jasmine) Ginter
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jasmine.hawaii@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/28/2012

Comments:

According to a UH report and the state Department of Agriculture, replacing just 10% of our food imports with locally grown produce would give a nearly \$200 million jolt to our economy, create more than 2,300 jobs and raise more than \$6 million in state tax revenues. The US Department of Agriculture recently determined that in Hawai'i we only grow 8% to 10% of everything we eat. As the most remote major inhabited place on earth, that leaves us extraordinarily vulnerable to supply disruptions.

Since statehood we've paved 53% of our prime farmlands and at this moment the Land Use Commission is considering approving projects that would put 16,750 homes on more than 2,300 of the 4,500 acres currently used to grow food on O'ahu.

In the same way that the Clean Energy Initiative used statutory targets to kick start Hawaii's booming alternative energy sector, setting a target of doubling food production will kick-start an agricultural boom.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 29, 2012 10:37 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: tompsonp001@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Matilda Tompson
Organization: Individual
E-mail: tompsonp001@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/29/2012

Comments:

Thank you for your careful and thoughtful consideration of this measure to support increased food production in Hawaii. I encourage you to create this new chapter in the DOA. I am most thankful for the availability of produce at our local farmer's markets in Waimea (big island). Local farmers need to be supported. Mahalo

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 11:14 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: surfergirl808@msn.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: ROXANNE RIVERO
Organization: Surfrider Foundation
E-mail: surfergirl808@msn.com
Submitted on: 2/28/2012

Comments:

Thank you for scheduling this bill.. i am proponet of the organic farming and growing our own food on this abundant island.. much to be learned here and keep it local.. mahalo for your support.. and please support this bill.. mahalo

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 11:02 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: bMcD50@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Elizabeth McDermott
Organization: Individual
E-mail: bMcD50@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/28/2012

Comments:

I am so encouraged to see this bill being taken seriously by the Finance Committee. You have a historic opportunity to set Hawaii on a proactive course to achieving real food sustainability, and economic renewal.

Our overwhelming dependence on imports leaves us in real jeopardy and has also compromised the health of our families. Hawaii has an epidemic of diabetes and obesity that is only exacerbated by eating days old produce and packaged food that lack the nutritional content of locally grown food. Those illnesses also take a toll on workplace and school productivity.

I was astounded to learn that we currently produce only 8-10% of the food we eat in Hawaii. Our prime farmlands are our insurance against starvation should shipments ever cease, and could be the driver of a new vital, diversified economy in our state.

Let's stop sending all our grocery money to the mainland, and serving our visitors stuff grown in CA. It is time to start saving our best farmland. It is the wise thing to do. Thank you for seeing the promise this bill represents for our state and our community.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 29, 2012 10:24 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: suiteiness@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Annie Suite
Organization: Individual
E-mail: suiteiness@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/29/2012

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee and mahalo for hearing this bill. It is imperative that we increase local food for local consumption. We rely far too much on imported food to feed our communities. Our beautiful soil can feed us if we put the focus for our agricultural lands on local food for local consumption. It is sad that we would need legislation to make this a priority, but given the demand for alternative uses to this land, we must protect our ability to feed ourselves. Mahalo.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
ent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 8:57 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: kupono.aina@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Mika Ashley-Hollinger
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kupono.aina@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/28/2012

Comments:

Honorable Members; Please support and pass HB2703. This is a monumental step forward for all of Hawai'i to become self sustainable. It will create permanent jobs and healthy accessible food.

Mahalo for caring about the aina and it's people.

Mika Ashley-Hollinger

FINTestimony

From: randy ching [oahurandy@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 9:07 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: in support of HB2703, HD1 - relating to food self-sufficiency

HB2703, HD1 (support)
House Finance Committee
Hearing on Wednesday, February 29 at 3:30 p.m. in conference room 308

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and members of the committee,

I support HB2703, HD1. Thank you for scheduling a hearing on this bill. It is important that we increase our food security by growing locally more of the food we eat.

Please pass this bill. Mahalo.

Sincerely,

Randy Ching
Honolulu
oahurandy@yahoo.com

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 11:43 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: ndavlantes@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Nancy Davlantes
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ndavlantes@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/28/2012

Comments:

I am among the many who are delighted that this bill is being heard by the Finance Committee. Hawaii cannot pass up this opportunity to encourage an agricultural renaissance here. According to a UH report and the state Department of Agriculture, replacing just 10% of our food imports with locally grown produce would give a nearly \$200 million boost to our economy, create more than 2,300 jobs and raise more than \$6 million in state tax revenues. And it would encourage the protection from development of valuable farmland that can help us grow more of what we eat.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Nancy Davlantes
Kaneohe

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 29, 2012 11:39 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: imua35@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: RYAN KAUAHIKAUA
Organization: Individual
E-mail: imua35@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/29/2012

Comments:

Please pass this bill! I strongly support it! It makes no sense to import so much of our food when we can grow it ourselves and build our economy and our physical health. Mahalo.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 29, 2012 8:30 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: phylfrus@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Phyllis Frus
Organization: Individual
E-mail: phylfrus@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/29/2012

Comments:

Thank you, Chair Oshiro and members of the committee, for scheduling HB 2703 for a hearing. I am a farmer on a small scale--with a community garden plot at Diamond Head--and I am amazed at how much my fellow-gardeners produce. This bill will support farmers and increase the amount of locally grown and affordable food in our supermarkets as well as farmer's markets, putting it in the reach of everyone. Other results: this bill will not only start us on the road to food security but will jump start the economy by creating jobs and raising tax revenues. Thank you for recognizing that we need all the acres proposed for development to grow food; keep new homes within high-density areas near the rail line.

With aloha,
Phyllis Frus

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 10:14 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: mh@interpac.net
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Cory Hardenm
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mh@interpac.net
Submitted on: 2/28/2012

Comments:

Please support growing food locally! It just makes sense. I do gardening and buy local whenever possible. Mahalo!

FINTestimony

From: Brenda Clausen [bcbrendaclausen@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 29, 2012 8:16 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Stop Bill SB2089

Importance: High

We are against this bill as we feel it will reduce the number of travellers to Hawaii as rental costs will have to increase to cover the extra cost of rental fees to the real estate companies.

Many renters already find the cost of going to Hawaii far greater than Mexico and if the rental costs go up any more we will lose more and more people to other destinations.

Before we decided on Maui we did look at properties in Palm Springs and Florida and if this bill goes through we may have to sell Maui and purchase elsewhere.

We already have a loss on our rentals every year and this is before Mortgage payments. If we have to pay real estate fees of 20 to 50 percent, it will be totally unaffordable.

This bill will put more control in the hands of the real estate people who have none of their own monies invested in the condos they are renting. The purchase price and all the expenses are borne by the owners of these properties.

It is not right to penalize us even more by creating unnecessary fees to rental agents. It will become more unaffordable and many owners may have to sell their properties rather than lose more money trying to keep them.

The real estate agents have nothing to lose if these vacation rental properties lose money to the point they have to be sold. They have no personal funds invested in keeping these properties in good repair and rental shape. They must rely on owners for this and as it becomes more unaffordable, owners will not be able to hang onto their properties.

We are upstanding, honest owners who have a business license, file individual state taxes, property taxes and pay all our TAT and GET fees on time. We hire local people to handle the cleaning and repairs to the condo and have them on call should anything be required by the renters. We check references on our prospective renters and keep in touch with them to ensure all is well.

We sincerely hope you will stop this bill before it becomes law.

Regards,
Kelly & Brenda Clausen
Comox, BC Canada V9M 3Y6
250-339-4455

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 29, 2012 9:54 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: kimhoffman@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kim Hoffman
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kimhoffman@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/29/2012

Comments:

This bill is not only vital to our food security in general, but presents an excellent opportunity to "grow" farmers/local jobs.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 29, 2012 10:11 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: kris@krisbordessa.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kris Bordessa
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kris@krisbordessa.com
Submitted on: 2/29/2012

Comments:

I urge you to support this bill. Hawaii's dependence upon imported food puts the state's residents in peril in the event of an emergency. Additionally, the environmental impact of importing items like avocado and mango when they can be grown right here is criminal. Shipping OUT our grass fed beef and importing feed lot animals is ludicrous. Why not allow island farmers to provide the food we need here? Good for the environment, good for the economy, good for our health.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 1:12 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: redahi@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Bobby McClintock
Organization: Individual
E-mail: redahi@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/28/2012

Comments:

According to a UH report and the state Department of Agriculture, replacing just 10% of our food imports with locally grown produce would give a nearly \$200 million jolt to our economy, create more than 2,300 jobs and raise more than \$6 million in state tax revenues. The US Department of Agriculture recently determined that in Hawai'i we only grow 8% to 10% of everything we eat. As the most remote major inhabited place on earth, that leaves us extraordinarily vulnerable to supply disruptions. Since statehood we've paved 53% of our prime farmlands and at this moment the Land Use Commission is considering approving projects that would put 16,750 homes on more than 2,300 of the 4,500 acres currently used to grow food on O'ahu.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 7:36 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: laura808@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM
Attachments: testimony.txt

Testimony for FIN 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Laura Watkins
Organization: Individual
E-mail: laura808@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/28/2012

Comments:

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 8:16 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: justin@islandfoodscaping.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM
Attachments: testimonyHB2703.pages

Testimony for FIN 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Justin Franzmeier
Organization: Island Foodscaping
E-mail: justin@islandfoodscaping.com
Submitted on: 2/28/2012

Comments:

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 1:00 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: stevetearney@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Steve Tearney
Organization: Individual
E-mail: stevetearney@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/28/2012

Comments:

I support HB 2703 and I would like to see Hawaii grow more of its own food -- even rice. It used to be grown in Waipio Valley.

Steve Tearney

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 12:31 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: alohaxtc@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Harvey Arkin
Organization: Individual
E-mail: alohaxtc@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/28/2012

Comments:

Aloha Chair Oshiro and members of the committee. I want to thank you for scheduling HB2703 for a hearing and showing your support for Hawaii's food system. You are local food heroes! I am a home gardener and a supporter of the farm-to-school movement. This bill will help support my work in the community by increasing the amount of food in our market place that is locally grown. Your positive role in growing our local food system is very much appreciated.

FINTestimony

m: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
it: Wednesday, February 29, 2012 12:11 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: happyinhilo@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Sharon O'Connell
Organization: Individual
E-mail: happyinhilo@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/29/2012

Comments:

Support of this bill is a NO-brainer!!! Why wait until we cannot feed ourselves AT ALL!!!!
This should have been addressed 20 years ago - DO IT NOW!!!

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 29, 2012 11:50 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: moriahwind@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Moriah Smith
Organization: Individual
E-mail: moriahwind@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/29/2012

Comments:

We need to be food sovereign not just in case of emergency but to save our farmers livelihood and keep money in the local economy, a sustainable Hawaii is the future our children deserve!

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
ent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 6:00 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: alohabillw@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Bill Waring
Organization: Individual
E-mail: alohabillw@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/28/2012

Comments:

I urge you to fully support this measure to increase the resiliency and food security of our island home.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
ent: Wednesday, February 29, 2012 12:04 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: salinavaughn@mac.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Salina Vaughn
Organization: Individual
E-mail: salinavaughn@mac.com
Submitted on: 2/29/2012

Comments:

I am a mother of 6 and I strongly believe in Hawaii being sustainable to protect our people in an emergency. Also it is good for the economy and for health reasons. Thank you for your continued support in making Hawaii sustainable.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 29, 2012 2:27 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: greenhawaii@msn.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Christine Eason
Organization: Individual
E-mail: greenhawaii@msn.com
Submitted on: 2/29/2012

Comments:

Aloha Chair Oshiro & Committee Members, Please show your support for Hawaii's food system at this hearing. It is imperative that Hawaii recognizes the importance of sustainability and acts to promote it. We have great potential to produce healthy, locally grown food. This would reduce our carbon imprint by cutting shipping. It would be great for our economy. We must support our local farmers (not the developers) as they could be our future lifeline. Thank you for listening.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 12:46 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: selina@egofree.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Selina Heaton
Organization: Individual
E-mail: selina@egofree.com
Submitted on: 2/28/2012

Comments:

Aloha Chair Oshiro and members of the committee. Thank you for scheduling HB2703 for a hearing and showing your support for Hawaii's food system. You are local food heroes! I am a home gardener and a huge supporter of the farm-to-school movement. This bill will help support my work in the community by increasing the amount of food in our market place that is locally grown. Your positive role in growing our local food system is very much appreciated. Thank you so much.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 4:46 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: mgalimba@kuahiwiranch.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Michelle Galimba
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mgalimba@kuahiwiranch.com
Submitted on: 2/28/2012

Comments:

Aloha Chair Oshiro and committee members,

I strongly support the intent of HB2703 to take strong measures to address the issue of food security in Hawaii. It is important that Hawaii move towards re-localizing its resource base, for the sake of economic vitality and community resilience. Please support the intent of this bill and help to work towards making its vision a reality.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 8:13 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: robertj.conlan@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Robert Joseph Conlan
Organization: Individual
E-mail: robertj.conlan@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/28/2012

Comments:
Aloha Chair Oshiro.

I am one of your constituents and I want to thank you for scheduling HB2703 for a hearing and showing your support for Hawaii's food system. You are a local food hero!

I am a huge supporter of the farm-to-school movement. This bill will help support my work in the community by increasing the amount of food in our market place that is locally grown. Your positive role in growing our local food system is very much appreciated.

Thank you so much.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 8:03 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: taiishnadai808@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Rebecca Branham
Organization: Individual
E-mail: taiishnadai808@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/28/2012

Comments:

I have an organic garden. Please support my and others' efforts to grow food.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
ent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 9:52 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: jmccay@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: James McCay
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jmccay@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/28/2012

Comments:

Aloha Chair Oshiro and members of the committee. I want to thank you for scheduling HB2703 for a hearing and showing your support for Hawaii's food system. You are local food heroes! I am a home gardener and a huge supporter of the farmer markets and the farm-to-school movement. This bill will help support my work in the community by increasing the amount of food in our market place that is locally grown. Your positive role in growing our local food system is very much appreciated. Thank you so much!!!

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 1:33 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: wschnitzer@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Bill & Donna Schnitzer
Organization: Individual
E-mail: wschnitzer@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/28/2012

Comments:

tax incentives are fine but government should not be telling people what to do with their land.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 10:32 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Javier Mendez-Alvarez
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 2/28/2012

Comments:

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 11:01 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: woodygarrison@windstream.net
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Woody Garrison
Organization: Individual
E-mail: woodygarrison@windstream.net
Submitted on: 2/28/2012

Comments:

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 11:09 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: karingill@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Karin Gill
Organization: Individual
E-mail: karingill@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/28/2012

Comments:
Strong support.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 12:24 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: onipaa.porter@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ethan Porter
Organization: Individual
E-mail: onipaa.porter@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/28/2012

Comments:
Please let this bill continue!

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 7:25 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: jwf2.tao@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: James Fraser
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jwf2.tao@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/28/2012

Comments:

We need greater food independence in Hawaii, and more support for small & local farms!

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
ent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 7:52 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: clk5356@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Carolyn Knoll
Organization: Individual
E-mail: clk5356@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/28/2012

Comments:

The US Department of Agriculture recently determined that in Hawai'i we only grow 8% to 10% of everything we eat. As the most remote major inhabited place on earth, that leaves us extraordinarily vulnerable to supply disruptions.

Since statehood we've paved 53% of our prime farmlands and at this moment the Land Use Commission is considering approving projects that would put 16,750 homes on more than 2,300 of the 4,500 acres currently used to grow food on O'ahu.

According to a UH report and the state Department of Agriculture, replacing just 10% of our food imports with locally grown produce would give a nearly \$200 million jolt to our economy, create more than 2,300 jobs and raise more than \$6 million in state tax revenues.

In the same way that the Clean Energy Initiative used statutory targets to kick start Hawaii's booming alternative energy sector, setting a target of doubling food production will kick-start an agricultural boom.

Hawaii needs this bill!!

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
ent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 8:59 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: brilana@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Brilana Silva
Organization: Individual
E-mail: brilana@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/28/2012

Comments:

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 29, 2012 10:55 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: ezeisenpress@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Zoe Eisenpress
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ezeisenpress@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/29/2012

Comments:

FINTestimony

m: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
.it: Wednesday, February 29, 2012 11:14 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: lowryc@mac.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Comments Only
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Cynthia Lowry
Organization: Individual
E-mail: lowryc@mac.com
Submitted on: 2/29/2012

Comments:

In the same way that the Clean Energy Initiative used statutory targets to kick start Hawaii's booming alternative energy sector, setting a target of doubling food production will kick-start an agricultural boom.

The US Department of Agriculture recently determined that in Hawai'i we only grow 8% to 10% of everything we eat. As the most remote major inhabited place on earth, that leaves us extraordinarily vulnerable to supply disruptions.

According to a UH report and the state Department of Agriculture, replacing just 10% of our food imports with locally grown produce would give a nearly \$200 million jolt to our economy, create more than 2,300 jobs and raise more than \$6 million in state tax revenues.

Since statehood we've paved 53% of our prime farmlands and at this moment the Land Use Commission is considering approving projects that would put 16,750 homes on more than 2,300 of the 4,500 acres currently used to grow food on O'ahu.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 29, 2012 11:37 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: cchow78@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: CHRISTINE KAUAHIKAUA
Organization: Individual
E-mail: cchow78@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/29/2012

Comments:

I strongly support this bill and believe that our community will grow in so many ways. The physical & economic health of our community will thrive!

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 29, 2012 10:54 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: amybrinker@mac.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2703 on 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/29/2012 3:30:00 PM HB2703

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Amy Brinker
Organization: Individual
E-mail: amybrinker@mac.com
Submitted on: 2/29/2012

Comments: